

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Representative Frey Introduces Legislation To Benefit Connecticut's Military Families**



HARTFORD--State Representative John H. Frey, R-Ridgefield, has introduced legislation that would provide a \$250,000 life insurance policy to Connecticut National Guard members. The Legislature's Veterans Affairs Committee discussed the legislation (House Bill 6004) during a February 3 public hearing at the State Capitol

and may take action to move the bill forward during the next several weeks, said Rep. Frey.

Rep. Frey's proposed legislation on the state level is similar to President Bush's new proposal that would guarantee providing \$250,000 in government payments to the families of U.S. troops killed in Iraq, Afghanistan and future war zones. According to published reports, under the federal proposal, the current tax-free benefit of \$12,430 would expand to \$100,000. The federal government would also pay for \$150,000 in life insurance for troops. The benefits are expected to be included in the President's 2006 budget proposal that will be submitted to Congress shortly. Representative Frey's bill is modeled on a similar measure that passed recently in New Mexico

"During the past three years, several Connecticut National Guard units have been activated for domestic duty and for assignment overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq," said Rep. Frey, who serves as an Assistant Minority Leader. "The men and women in our National Guard are prepared to put their lives on the line to protect our security and the freedoms we enjoy. Should any military personnel make the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, this legislation would help ease the financial stress on their loved ones."

According to the non-partisan Office of Fiscal Analysis, the cost for an individual member of the Connecticut National Guard to participate in the current U. S. Armed Forces life insurance plan with a \$250,000 benefit is \$16.25 per month.

Rep. Frey has also submitted legislation to exempt the first \$20,000 of any military pension from the state income tax. House Bill 6345 has also been sent to the Veterans Affairs Committee. This bill would help show the state's appreciation for those who serve in the military, said Rep. Frey.

“Despite the best efforts of fiscal conservatives, Connecticut continues to overtax its businesses and residents,” said Rep. Frey, who serves on the Legislature’s Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. “Each year, we consider new tax breaks for senior citizens. Providing a tax break on these pensions recognizes that those who have served in the military have done much to make our state and nation what they are today.”